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SOURCE Vestnik Svyazi

CONSOLIDATED OPERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN USSR

[Comment: This article describes work done in 1953 in installing radio, telephone, postal, and other communications facilities in one room or one building in order to save space and labor. Under these conditions one person may be responsible for servicing several types of equipment.]

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

During 1953, equipment of wired radio centers and electric communications enterprises was consolidated in 600 communications enterprises of the USSR; more than 250 of these enterprises were located in rayon centers. Wire broadcasting equipment was consolidated mainly with telephone switchboards and telegraph equipment. In many cases, wired radio centers were consolidated with main distributing frames of interurban and urban telephone exchanges, with repeater points on intraoblast telephone communications or trunk line communications, with radio stations on intraoblast communications, and with postal enterprises. During this same time, about 90 small wired radio centers which were operating at a loss were abolished and their speakers were connected to more powerful wired radio centers.

Consolidation made it possible to cut the regular staff of workers by more than 700 and to free more than 7,600 square meters of operating space. During a 6-month period, the savings in wages exceeded 1.5 million rubles and 362,000 rubles were saved in other operational costs.

By using part of the staff that was freed by consolidation, the length of operating time for wired radio centers was increased in 138 places, for telephone switchboards in 412 places, for telegraph in 123 places, and for mail communications in 36 places.

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About 1,200 territorial-technical sectors (TTU, territorial 'no-tekhnicheskii uchastok) have been organized. In addition, intrarayon and urban telephone and radio relay lines are being repaired by consolidated crews in 1,700 rayons.

The 1953 plans for consolidating communications equipment were successfully fulfilled in the Vinnitskaya, Molodechenskaya, Novgorodskaya, Sverdlovskaya, Stanislavskaya oblasts and in several other communications administrations of the Ministry of Communications. (1)

Consolidation in Sverdlovskaya Oblast

In Sverdlovskaya Oblast, RSFSR, the problems of consolidation were discussed at the beginning of 1953 at an oblast conference in which the heads of rayon communications offices participated. After the meeting, classes for training telephone operators, telegraph operators, and supervisors were organized at communications offices. Rules for operating communications and wire-broadcasting equipment were studied. Problems in servicing and operating the equipment were also discussed at a full plenum of the oblast committee of the trade union for communications workers.

This preparatory work made it possible to consolidate facilities in 13 communications branch offices in Sverdlovskaya Oblast during the first half of 1953, although only six had been planned for the entire year. Operation of the telephone switchboard and the wired radio center was consolidated in ten communications branch offices; operation of the wired radio center was consolidated with postal work in six offices. The consolidated repair of intrarayon communications lines, urban telephone exchange lines, and radio-broadcasting lines was organized in 45 rayons of Sverdlovskaya Oblast. During the first 6 months of 1953, the services of seven members of the regular staff (having a combined salary of 12,500 rubles) were dispensed with, and more than 200 square meters of operating space were freed as a result of consolidating communications and wire broadcasting facilities. Expenditures for maintenance, electricity, etc., were reduced 7,000 rubles. (1)

Consolidation in Vladimirskaia Oblast

In Vladimirskaia Oblast, RSFSR, operations were consolidated in 154 communications enterprises prior to April 1954. Equipment of the urban telephone station was consolidated with the interurban telephone station in seven rayon offices; in 11 offices the telegraph, the urban telephone exchange, and the interurban telephone exchange were consolidated; in one office a repeater point was consolidated with a wired radio center, in three offices the telegraph was consolidated with the wired radio center, and in three offices, the telegraph, the telephone, and the wired radio center were consolidated.

In 11 branch communications offices of Vladimirskaia Oblast wired radio centers were consolidated with intrarayon communications switchboards. In seven branch communications offices postal operations were combined with operation of the radio centers, and in 111 offices, with operation of the switchboards.

As a result of this consolidation, the operational staff was reduced by 170 persons and 670 square meters of operating space were freed with a saving of 778,200 rubles a year. Part of the space was used for other purposes but the major part was turned back to the owners. Of the 170 persons, 15 went to the Main Administration of Radiofication and Rayon Electric Communications of the Ministry of Communications and the rest were used to bring up to strength the crews which repair lines and service subscriber equipment or assigned to other places where the lack of manpower was affecting the quality of the work adversely.

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After consolidation in Vladimirskaya Oblast, the operating time of 23 intrarayon switchboards increased by 5 to 9 hours and of 11 telegraph stations, by 8 hours each in a 24 hour period. By connecting wired radio centers to more powerful wired radio centers with a reliable power source the operating time of 2,982 wired radio speakers increased from 8-10.5 hours to 14.5 hours in a 24-hour period. (2)

Consolidation in Stavropol'skiy Kray

In Stavropol'skiy Kray, RSFSR, 28 wired radio centers were relocated in branch communications offices in 1953. This freed 28 staff jobs and 578 square meters of space; more than 36,000 rubles were saved. (3)

Consolidation in Stanislavskaya Oblast

In Stanislavskaya Oblast, Ukrainian SSR, measures taken in 1953 to combine communications and wire broadcasting facilities in six places made it possible to cut the regular staff by ten, thereby saving 3,600 rubles in monthly wages. Special seminars were held for servicing combined communications facilities; the quality of radio broadcasts improved. (1)

Training of Communications Employees

In 1953, many communications administrations gave serious attention to training employees to operate combined facilities. Two- and three-month courses for technicians of wired radio centers were organized in the Amurskaya, Velikolukskaya, Gor'kovskaya, Kirovskaya, Omskaya, Rostovskaya, Tul'skaya, Khabarovskaya, and L'vovskaya Oblast Communications Administrations. In the Moskovskaya, Kurganskaya, and Pskovskaya Oblast Communications Administrations similar courses were organized for training technicians of territorial-technical sectors. In Kalininskaya, Vladimirskaya, Mordovskaya, Astrakhanskaya, Bobruyskaya, Minskaya, Pinskaya Oblast Administrations and in the Estonian and Kirgiz Republic Administrations seminars and courses were held for technicians of the various branches of communications and deputy chiefs of rayon offices. In the Kirgiz SSR, 22 out of 27 people who completed the courses for technicians of wired radio centers were appointed as deputy chiefs of communications offices. (1)

Criticisms of Consolidation

However, a check on the operation of consolidated equipment showed serious shortcomings: in several cases the operation of communications and radio facilities had actually deteriorated. In Kalininskaya Oblast, RSFSR, the personnel were neither sufficiently trained nor directed by the deputy chiefs of communications offices and technicians of wired radio centers. For this reason, several telephone and telegraph operators did not know how to operate the radio equipment, did not know how to monitor, etc. The line inspectors of the territorial-technical sectors, who had come from various branches of communications, were spending more than the allotted amount of time for repair of equipment. Operations had deteriorated in almost all branches of electric communications in Kalininskaya Oblast because inspectors attached to specific sectors were being taken from these sectors and used for other kinds of work.

In several branch offices of Penzenskaya Oblast, RSFSR, station and line equipment was being serviced by type of equipment rather than by geographical location. In Toropets, Velikolukskaya Oblast, RSFSR, one technician on duty had to service ST-35 telegraph equipment, the line equipment room, switchboards for urban and interurban telephone exchanges, as well as the battery and generator of a wired radio center. As a result of the excessive work load, a direct violation of regulations regarding technical operation occurred.

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In the communications branch offices under one of the communications offices in Kurganskaya Oblast, RSFSR, equipment for an intrarayon communications switchboard was consolidated with a wired radio center, but the telephone operators were not made responsible for operating the wired radio center.

In Pochinok communications office in Smolenskaya Oblast, RSFSR, where the repeater point on intraoblast communications and a wired radio center have been consolidated since 1952, territorial-technical sectors were organized only on paper. Not even the number of installations that were to be included in each sector was specified. City and rayon line telephone and telegraph administrations were not broken down into sectors and no one was responsible for servicing lines and subscriber equipment. The servicing of communications and wire broadcasting equipment beyond city limits was not organized by territory but by type of equipment. Some of the technicians and supervisors of communications offices were not sufficiently trained for combined servicing and had to be retrained.

Poor leadership and lack of technical training is responsible for the lag in combining wired communications and wire broadcasting facilities and the low quality of service on combined equipment in some communications administrations. (1)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Vestnik Svyazi, No 2, Feb 54
2. Ibid., No 4, Apr 54
3. Ibid., No 3, Mar 54

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